Camp Fredericksburgh Nov 2nd 78

Dr Vaby -

I am at a Loss how to address you, whether as the same intimate dear friend as formerly, or as one who has contracted an intimate acquaintance with some gentleman more deserving of your good Opinion than I am. I always hope for the best, that you are still disengaged, that you still entertain a partiality for me. That my address may still meet with a favorable reception, and that I may be so fortunate as to deserve your hand as a reward for all the Hardships & Fatigues I have undergone in the service of my Country. I have been exceeding unhappy in being so long seperated from you. The distance of time & place has not in the least abated my sincere attachment & tender regard for you. I entertain the most sanguine Expectations & hopes, that I shall this Winter have the supreme satisfaction & pleasure of waiting upon you - of spend-

spending a more agreable Hours in your
dear Company. and perswading you to make
me happy? The war is almost concluded;
our distress'd Country will undoubtedly be
restored to a long wish'd for tranquility. &
when that happy, blessed happy period shall
arrive I hope I may come with propriety
you'd command my fervent wishes, at your
feet. Unless some fortunate deserving Rival should supercede me in your affection.
If you are already engag'd to another
person. If you think you cannot consent
to make me happy in bestowing your
hand upon me. I conjure, I beseech you to write me the first opportunity that you have the most
gratification of finding myself disappointed
of the prospect of my long desired happiness too suddenly, when I shall come to Virginia this winter, glowing with the tenderest
passion to clasp my dearest Nabby to my
bosom — and arm myself previously against the unhappy reverse of being frustrated of my warmest Hopes of felicity. I am sure that you

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mind is open and generous, & therefore
am more urgent upon you to write
me information whether you have engag
yourself to any other Gentleman. Tell
me candidly lovly girl that I may
know the worst. tell me if you think you
cannot consistant with your own delic
cate sentiments, make me one of the
happiest men living, by generously con
senting to become mine. But unless
you write me, I shall take take your
silence for consent. In case I receive
no Letter from you within a Month
I shall take your silence for consent.
and still suppose you will give me
the same kind Reception as usual.
that you still entertain a kind partic
ality for me; & that I have still the
agreable delightsom prospect of entering
into the tenderest connection with the one
only person that can, that is capable of
rendering me gratefully happy. But
depend upon it that I have your welfare
equally as heart with my own, and

unless I suppos[ed] that it would be the principal
Study of my Life (in c[ase] we were inseperably
connected) to render our Life as agreable
and contented as poss[ible] I should never presume
to persue my Addres[s]. But where a tender Regard
for a person is so [firmly] fix'd as mine, &
[illegible] I think it impossible but that we should exert
his utmost abilities & every kind Office in his
Power to render the Object of his highest in
every respect happy. That you may enjoy
joy every Blessing & Felicity. That you
may be crown'd with Health & Contentment
is the predominate wish of

Yrs sincerely

Wm Read Sumner

Naby Bishop

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